

**State Accreditation Committee Meeting
Minutes
Thursday, May 19, 2016**

The Nebraska State Accreditation Committee met at the NCSA in Lincoln. Chair Mike Sieh called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and declared a quorum present and established the legality of the meeting.

Members present were the following: Dale Fornander, Abby Freeman, Dale Hafer, Pat Hoehner, Mitch Kubicek, Freida Lange, Troy Lurz, Kyle McGowan, Travis Miller, Gerry Osborn, Msgr. John Perkinson, Kevin Riley, Joe'l Ruybalid, Amy Shane, and Mike Sieh.

NDE staff members present during all or some of the meeting were the following: Commissioner Matt Blomstedt, Donlynn Rice, Sharon Katt, Diane Stuehmer, Russ Masco, Julane Hill, Jolene Palmer, Sue Anderson, Aprille Phillips, Matt Heusman, Carol Rempp, Valorie Foy, Don Loseke, and Dennis McGuire.

Following greetings and introductions, Mike Sieh reviewed the agenda. Dale Fornander moved to approve the agenda, and Gerry Osborn seconded the motion.

Voting yes: Dale Fornander, Abby Freeman, Dale Hafer, Pat Hoehner, Mitch Kubicek, Freida Lange, Troy Lurz, Kyle McGowan, Travis Miller, Gerry Osborn, Msgr. John Perkinson, Kevin Riley, Joe'l Ruybalid, Amy Shane, and Mike Sieh.

Voting no: none

Approval carried 15-0 with 7 absent.

Members reviewed the minutes of the January 15, 2016 meeting. Troy Lurz moved to accept the minutes, and Pat Hoehner seconded the motion.

Voting yes: Dale Fornander, Abby Freeman, Dale Hafer, Pat Hoehner, Mitch Kubicek, Freida Lange, Troy Lurz, Travis Miller, Msgr. John Perkinson, Kevin Riley, Joe'l Ruybalid, and Amy Shane.

Voting to abstain: Kyle McGowan and Gerry Osborn

Voting no: none

Approval carried 13-0 with 7 absent and 2 abstaining.

Freida Lange reviewed with members the purpose and direction of the committee's responsibilities per Nebraska statute. She stressed that the committee is a group representing a wide variety of schools and personnel throughout the state, and this diversity helps provide clear prioritization of what will best serve the Nebraska students today and tomorrow.

Message from the Commissioner

Dr. Blomstedt stressed the efforts of the State Board and the Nebraska Department of Education are to create an atmosphere of support and leadership that will best meet the needs of educators across the state in order for them to effectively serve students. He described the efforts of the Department to launch a vision of education for the state and to examine what is being done around accreditation and school improvement that will do the right things for students.

He described the efforts to build an accountability process and team that would be focused and equitable. He commended the work of Aprille Phillips and Matt Heusman for the waiver application because these efforts assisted in identifying the special responsibilities and efforts of all teams across the department. He described the restructuring of NDE departments with special emphasis on the expansion of the accreditation and school improvement team with the added responsibilities for Freida Lange.

He noted that the state board, with outside assistance and consultation, is developing a strategic plan this summer to assist in the creation of a biennial budget and a vision and purpose to guide the department's work for the next ten years. He reported that this effort will be focused on engaging as many stakeholders as possible to do what will be the greatest benefit for all students. He told the council that State Board's adoption date for the strategic plan is September.

2016 Legislative Update

Commissioner Blomstedt shared information about Senator Scheer's bill LB 930 that would allow the State Board to select a national test for eleventh graders, other than the NeSA. He also addressed the challenges for the financing of the learning community. Discussion of both these measures followed.

Rule 24-Endorsements and Certification

Sharon Katt provided members a detailed handout of Rule 21 descriptors of certificates and permits. She noted for members that a permit constitutes anything less than a full certificate. The handout provided nine different certificate and permit descriptions that will assist administrators as they review individual school needs and educators' backgrounds that can best serve the students in their schools.

She informed the committee that middle school certificates will require greater content area preparation and specifications. Additionally, she said that her division will be working to review several areas. First will be the requirements for counselors and the changing needs of schools in relationship to this area with the elimination of the two year teaching requirement. The second area will be looking at the special preparations, qualifications, and certificates for curriculum directors. The third area of focus is the school librarian and how the requirements can accommodate the hiring difficulties school face as well as the changing responsibilities of the librarians.

Sharon shared a handout summarizing the Rule 24 endorsement changes to be effective August 1, 2016.

Assessment Report

Much of Valorie Foy's presentation focused on the impending State Board's responsibility to select a national test for eleventh graders per LB 930. She described the components of the RFP that will soon be released for bids. In the meantime, she expects that the Board will probably use DRC for the coming transition year to foster stability in the NeSA testing. She shared some of the options for testing that ESSA provides such as opening the possibility that local tests that are valid and reliable may be used for state scores. She further discussed the implications for text based analysis (TBA) writing on the state assessments.

Effective Educator Update

The statewide efforts to develop teacher/principal effective practices (standards) began in 2011, and seventeen schools participated in the two-year pilot that ended last year. Donlynn Rice, who spearheaded these efforts, provided members the State Board's final report on the teacher/principal

model with the six recommendations that the State Board voted to recommend. Foremost among the six recommendations is that the *Teacher and Principal Performance Framework* be adopted as the minimum requirement for effective practices for teachers and principals. Of interest to the State Accreditation Committee is the third item in the list which states that “The State Board recognizes that the effective practices and models, developed through the pilot process, are aligned with existing NDE Rules.” Ms. Rice has been working with school districts to familiarize them with the model and how it can be effectively implemented. She noted that ESSA does not require student performance to be a part of teacher/principal evaluation.

EBA (Evidence Based Analysis) for AQuESTT (Nebraska’s Accountability System)

Sue Anderson told members that the EBA will be reviewed this summer by psychometricians who will be examining the response items for deficiencies and potential modifications. She also shared that efforts are underway to provide a technical assistance guide to clarify performance level descriptors and develop rubrics to assist respondents in answering each item. She noted that when the EBA will be administered next is still under consideration. In the meantime, the EBA team is analyzing the item responses.

ADVISER (Statewide Dashboard)

Russ Masco provided members a description and narration of how his division is in year two of the five-year rollout strategy for the ADVISER (dashboard) that will provide schools a tool for management of their school data to help inform instruction. He stressed that the April 18-19 AQuESTT Conference was “Continuing to Improve with Data” and provided participants an opportunity to share emerging practices and technical assistance. With the promise of a one place log-in, he noted the capabilities that this will have for individualization of data that in turn will benefit the educators but also better inform students and parents. He shared that 30-35 districts were early adopters of the Advisor, and approximately 80 more have now engaged in the program.

Priority & Needs Improvement Schools

Matt Heusman and Aprille Phillips then highlighted their work with the priority schools and the processes that are in place. They outlined the efforts that were made to determine what measurable data NDE had on each of the needs improvement schools that would better inform what schools might be most in need of assistance. Once this data and EBA results were taken into account, the needs improvement schools generated four different themes: those in a small, rural context; schools with rapidly changing demographics; the districts with large, high poverty urban schools, and schools on reservations. Because they could only choose three priority schools, no school from the rapidly changing demographics context was chosen. They noted that they first listened to what is happening in each of the three schools, established working relationships with the schools, developed data on each of the schools, and aligned ESU support systems to serve the schools. They shared that diagnostic reviews for the schools were completed, and now their efforts are to provide the information to the school staff, identify and prioritize areas for improvement, involve the ESU partners, and write a progress plan to submit to the State Board in August.

Physical Education Ad Hoc Committee Report/PE Standards

Dale Hafer described the efforts of the committee that Freida Lange facilitated to assist mostly small, rural schools so that they would have robust physical education instruction and at the same time accommodate the practice for interscholastic athletic competition at the seventh and eighth grade

levels. He described how the committee worked throughout the day in small and large groups and finally arrived at models that provided for everyone's needs without major rule changes. Travis Miller then described the model that he uses in his district and also referenced Dawn Lewis' Arnold/Callaway model. Both provide direction for districts to be in compliance with rule.

Julane Hill reported that her PE Standards Writing Team has a group of 29 members representing a wide range of personnel throughout the state involved in writing standards for physical education. She provided members a handout of the timeline for completion of the PE standards with a target date of State Board adoption being in August 2016.

ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act)

Diane Stuehmer gave members an overview of ESSA and its implications for Nebraska schools. She shared that her overview of ESSA elements is not permanent until all the regulations have been written that will accompany this new law. However, she noted that ESSA does give states greater control and flexibility than was in the previous law. She enthusiastically stated that AYP is gone. State testing remains, and sub group data will still be collected because there is still strong emphasis on equity. ESSA does not mention highly qualified teachers nor does it require statewide teacher evaluation policies with a component connected to student achievement. She noted the ESSA has the pillars of standards, assessment, transparency and accountability, support and intervention, and educator support and development.

Rule 10 Current Status

Freida Lange told members that she constantly keeps an adjustment document for Rule 10 that tracks possible necessary changes to keep the rule current. However, she noted that there is no Rule 10 at the present time that is in front of the state board for consideration regarding revision or adoption. She did share that the future holds some tweaking regarding certificates and permits, middle grades endorsement language, and counselor teaching requirement.

Rule 10 Multicultural Update

Carol Rempp provided members a map of the state pinpointing areas where the population demonstrates significant levels of diversity. She then provided members a handout showing the history of laws enacted to promote multicultural education in Nebraska. Additionally, she told members about the multicultural survey that will again be administered in the Spring of 2018. Finally, she reviewed with members what Rule 10 requires for districts to be in compliance with statute and rule.

Rule 10 Safety Standards

Jolene Palmer, the State School Safety Director, shared with members the draft of the Nebraska State Safety Standards to be presented to the State Board at their June 2016 meeting. She explained how once the board adopts the standards that each school building will be doing a self-assessment using the established rubrics to determine its level of safety operation. She noted that this is intended to generate a rich discussion in the schools to assist them as they, and the state, move forward in addressing safety issues. Once schools have completed the self-assessment, contractors will spend a day in the buildings to validate the self-assessment.

Action on Accreditation of Schools

Freida Lange shared with members the list of 245 Class 2 through V School Districts, 5 Special Purpose Schools, and 80 Nonpublic Schools recommended for continued accreditation in 2016-2017. Gerry Osborn motioned to accredit for 2016-17 the list of schools provided by Freida Lange. (The list is on pages 8-11 of the Annual Report for May 16, 2016.) Dale Fornander seconded the motion.

Voting yes: Dale Fornander, Dale Hafer, Pat Hoehner, Mitch Kubicek, Freida Lange, Troy Lurz, Travis Miller, Gerry Osborn, Msgr. John Perkinton, Kevin Riley, Joe'l Ruybalid, Amy Shane, and Mike Sieh.

Voting no: none

Approval carried 13-0 with 9 absent.

Don Loseke shared with members that Nebraska Christian School in Central City and Lutheran High Northeast in Norfolk had taken the necessary steps for initial accreditation for 2016-17. Joe'l Ruybalid moved for initial accreditation for the two schools for 2016-17. Troy Lurz seconded the motion.

Voting yes: Dale Fornander, Dale Hafer, Pat Hoehner, Mitch Kubicek, Freida Lange, Troy Lurz, Travis Miller, Gerry Osborn, Msgr. John Perkinton, Kevin Riley, Joe'l Ruybalid, Amy Shane, and Mike Sieh.

Voting no: none

Approval carried 13-0 with 9 absent.

School Improvement

Don Loseke reported the following dates for the school improvement workshops for fall 2016:

York	September 19-20
Norfolk	September 29-30
Omaha	October 3-4
Kearney	October 10-11
North Platte	October 20-21

Members were informed that the AQUESTT Conference is scheduled for April 10-11, 2017. They were told that this year's conference had 789 registrants, 98 presenters, 12 exhibitors, and 5 sponsors. One hundred ninety school districts, 16 ESUs, and 5 higher education institutions were represented at the conference.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20.